

A one-day conference for
Geography-Earth Science-Technology
in the K-12 Classroom

Saturday, April 5, 2003

8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Mesa State College
Grand Junction, Colorado

Sponsored by:
Mesa State College
Colorado Geographic Alliance (COGA)
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
ESRI



Join us...

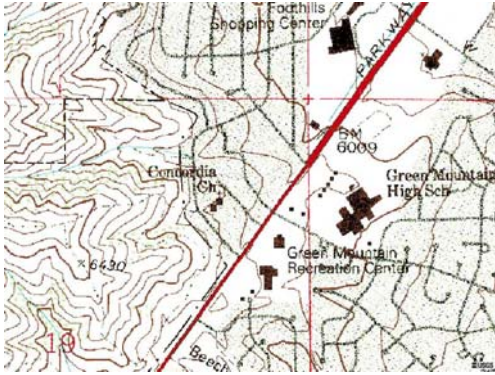
As the world becomes ever more connected, managed, and observed through the use of computers and other technologies, students have opportunities like never before to have the world at their fingertips – whether using the Internet, geographic information systems (GIS), the global positioning system (GPS) or satellite imagery. What better opportunity could classroom teachers have to instill in students a curiosity about geography, science and their world than by using these increasingly available tools?



GeoTech Colorado – Western Slope is a one-day conference that will offer presentations and hands-on workshops for teachers who want to learn more about using GIS, digital data, and online resources – many of which are free!

The conference will take place on Saturday, April 5, 2003, at Mesa State College. Mesa has two computer labs that will be available for use during the conference.

Experienced educators will share classroom tips while professionals outside of education will offer insights into applications of GIS and other tools in planning, engineering, science, and business. Geography, environmental and earth science teachers of all grade levels are encouraged to attend, as are any other teachers who are interested. Students are welcome, too!



What is GIS? What are “geospatial technologies”?

A geographic information system, or GIS, is a computer-based system designed for storing, updating, analyzing, displaying, and manipulating spatial data – information about places on the planet. It allows the user to answer geographic questions by arranging and displaying data about places in a variety of ways via maps, databases, images, and graphs. GIS can be used in the classroom to address geography, history, science, and technology standards.



“Geospatial technologies” include GIS, plus GPS (the Global Positioning System), remote sensing, and satellite imagery. For more information on these, visit:

<http://rockyweb.cr.usgs.gov/public/outreach/> or <http://www.esri.com/k-12>

Why should kids learn this stuff?



Students can use these tools to explore the cultural and physical environment – population distribution, historical settlement, watersheds, landforms, natural hazards, land use, and more. From participating in local community projects to observing trends at a global scale, students at all grade levels can use geospatial technologies. These types of educational experiences are extraordinary for students – hands-on, real-world, and high-tech! In addition, the skills they learn can be transferable to the work place. Examples of classroom use are:



- In North Carolina, middle school students use GIS to track elephants in Africa for a local zoo while others track the devastating effects of floods from recent hurricanes.
- In North Dakota, high school students help local state parks study and manage their resources using GIS.
- In Colorado, students compare historical floods in their community to present-day land use.
- In Texas, students analyze tracks of hurricanes over the past century.



For more information

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(970) 248-1672 or vjohnson@mesastate.edu

COGA: Sophia Linn
970-224-9117 or sophia@frii.com

USGS: Joseph Kerski
303-202-4315 or jjkerski@usgs.gov



Registration: \$25
Students: \$15
Includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch
Please make checks payable to **Mesa State College** and
send by March 21 with the form below to:
GeoTech - Western Slope
Attn: Dr. Verner C. Johnson
Dept of Physical and Environmental Sciences
Mesa State College
1175 Texas Ave
Grand Junction CO 81501

On-site registration will be available, but pre-registration is encouraged!

Registration Form

____ Participant ____ Exhibitor ____ Student

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

School/Org: _____

District: _____

Grade Level: _____